

NE-DBIC GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

Oak Knoll’s Marketing and Branding Project

By Kathryn Donovan, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Note: The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center’s (NE-DBIC) Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Program provides funds to established value-added dairy processors in the Northeast U.S. to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate their businesses.

Many farmers hope to see the value built over their life passed on to the next generation. In some cases, farms are handed to family members after years of sweat equity. In other cases, farms and brands are acquired by an outside party interested in filling the void created by the retirement



of a long-time operator. The story of Bridgman Hill represents a new generation of farmers in Vermont continuing the legacy of multiple

operations. Bridgman Hill Farm is a goat dairy located in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. The farm is run and

owned by Ryan Andrus and Annie Rowen in partnership with Jasper Hill Farm. The couple operating the farm have 15 years of experience running goat dairies. Ryan, Annie, and Jasper Hill converted a vacant cow dairy in Hardwick, Vermont to meet the needs of raising, managing, and milking a herd of goats. Any excess milk is sold to Jasper Hill to be made into a variety of specialty cheeses. The main use of Bridgman Hill milk is bottling under the Oak Knoll label, which can make up 50-80% of their milk production. Oak Knoll is an established brand that originated in Windsor, Vermont which was originally owned by Karen and George Redick. After years of conversation Bridgman Hill

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Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

Summer. It's a short time to enjoy all that Vermont has to offer. From the backroads to the store shelves, the taste of Vermont can be found. The quality of freshness and quality can be found in all corners of the Green Mountains. It's also a month where we celebrate and support our dairy farmers. June is dairy month!

Vermont's farms are central to what many of us treasure about our state. They set the backdrop for our iconic scenery, feed our families, schools, and workplaces, provide the raw ingredients for the high-quality products for which our state is known, and create spaces for gathering. Farmers are the primary stewards of our working landscape and are on the front lines of building our state's climate change resilience.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and the effects of supply chain disruptions were being felt across the country, our local farms were near-by reliably providing fresh, nourishing food to people across the state.

However, as many of you know, running a farm is not an easy endeavor. Start-up costs can be prohibitive, and the costs of maintenance and ongoing inputs are often high. So far this year, prices for farming inputs including fuel, seeds, building materials, packaging, hay, labor, and more have risen significantly.

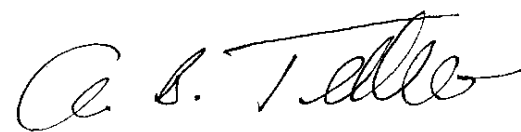
Now more than ever, Vermont farmers need our support. Look for Vermont products in your local retailer or co-op. These markets play an important role in

supporting Vermont agriculture and our farmers. Many farmers rely on these stores for a stable market. Another way you can help is by making a commitment to buy as much as you can directly from your local farmer. This means signing up for a Community Support Agriculture (CSA) share or visiting their farm stand or your local farmers' market.

CSAs are particularly vital for farms because they provide a more reliable revenue stream and support the up-front costs associated

with planting and preparing for a new season. Farm stands have also become an increasingly valuable avenue for farmers to directly provide a growing variety and volume of local products to consumers. Farmers markets continue to serve as a unique community connection and pivotal marketing opportunity for our agricultural community.

We wish you a safe and successful summer and as always thank you for all you do for Vermont and beyond.



— Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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This Month's Recipe

PB&J Frozen Yogurt Bark

Recipe by New England Dairy

Ingredients

1 cup ripe strawberries,
sliced, divided into
1/2 cup and 1/2 cup
2/3 cup vanilla nonfat
Greek yogurt
1 tbsp peanut butter

If you love all the flavors in a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, you'll definitely want to try this fresh take on a sweet snack. You'll combine protein-packed Greek yogurt with swirls of peanut butter and strawberries, and then freeze it into a frosty "bark". Enjoy straight from the freezer for a perfect snack on a hot day!



Instructions for one serving.

1. Cover a small baking sheet with parchment paper or wax paper. Set aside for now.
2. Place 1/2 cup of strawberries in a bowl and mash well with a fork.

3. Spread your Greek yogurt on the prepared baking sheet until it's about 1/4 an inch thick.

4. Add dollops of mashed strawberries and peanut butter to the Greek yogurt. Take a knife and swirl it around in the yogurt to spread all the flavors through.

5. Top with the remaining 1/2 cup of sliced strawberries.

6. Place in the freezer for at least 2-3 hours, or until completely frozen. Break your bark into smaller pieces and enjoy as a frozen treat!

Oak Knoll

continued from page 1

acquired the brand and equipment from George and Karen.

After a couple years in operation Bridgman Hill sought to explore how to increase demand for Oak Knoll milk. In 2021, Bridgman

Hill Farm received a Marketing & Branding Services Grant from the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center to support a rebrand of their product line. These funds are being used to engage with a marketing and branding consultancy to help the partners of Oak Knoll more

gracefully represent their high-quality milk and position the brand more strategically for future success. Though the project is not yet completed, Annie, Ryan, and Jasper Hill Farm plan to launch a new Oak Knoll look soon!

Vermont Dairy Farmers Recognized for High Quality Milk

By Vermont Dairy Industry Association

The Vermont Dairy Industry Association (VDIA), in partnership with the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund, is pleased to announce the 2021 Vermont Milk Quality Awards. The awards recognize the dairy farmers who produced Vermont's best quality milk in 2021.

The awards were presented to:
1st: David Houde, St. Johnsbury, VT - \$2500

2nd: Steven and Leslie Brown, East Burke, VT - \$1500

3rd: Howmars Farm /The Gates Family, Franklin, VT - \$1000

"The VDIA loves to promote the excellent work of our Vermont dairy farmers. The results of their hard work and dedication can be seen on the landscape throughout our state and in the wonderful dairy products produced with their milk in the state and the region." said VDIA board member Amy Maxham "Vermont dairy farmers work hard year-round to produce top quality milk and it is our privilege to recognize three Vermont farms for their exceptionally high quality. This level

of quality is the result of year-round attention to detail, hard work and persistence."

The A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund will provide a \$5K grant to support the VDIA "Milk Quality Award" program. The grants are designed to encourage professionalism and quality in the industry and recognize dairy farmers for their daily hard work for Vermont. For many years, Angelo Pizzagalli has supported Vermont's working landscape and its farmers, recognizing the importance of this segment of Vermont's economy and shared heritage.

"Vermont's farmers are focused on quality. We congratulate these award-winning farmers who are committed to excellence," Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said. "We are thankful to the Angelo Pizzagalli Family and the Vermont Community Foundation for their on-going support of our dairy farmers. It's making a difference for our hard-working farm families in Vermont."

The Vermont Dairy Industry Association works for the mutual benefit of its members, dairy farm families, and the dairy industry;

while encouraging and promoting close cooperation with educational institutions and other agencies concerned with the dairy industry. It also provides educational

opportunities, facilitates networking, supports youth activities in dairy and recognizes excellence in the dairy industry. The milk of all nominees has met strict quality criteria.

Vermont Ag Hall of Fame Announces 2022 Inductees

The Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame is excited to announce the 2022 inductees! Over the past 20 years, over 90 contributors of Vermont agricultural have been celebrated with the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame honor. This year the nominations were thoughtfully crafted making for complete choices. A celebratory luncheon is scheduled during the Champlain Valley Fair on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 12pm.



2022 Emerging Leader: This category highlights those who are stepping up to become the next generation of agricultural leaders in Vermont. Age 40 or younger (born after June 1, 1982), these individuals demonstrate a deep commitment to Vermont's working landscape and are poised to lead our Ag community into the future. They are remarkable for their service, youthful energy, and dedication to Vermont agriculture.

- Taylor Mendell, Farmer. Starksboro, VT

2022 Ag Innovator: Those in consideration for this category have demonstrated a fresh and forward-thinking approach to agriculture. They are making or have made a significant, positive impact on Vermont, in areas such as but not limited to: growing the local economy, promoting stewardship and conservation, improving community health and nutrition, developing new tools and practices, and using alternative models in business and land ownership. They are notable for their unique perspective and unconventional approach. (Age is not a factor for consideration in this category.)

- Eric Paris, Farmer. Lyndon, VT

2022 Lifetime Achievement: This category recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the advancement, improvement, or development of Vermont agriculture over the course of their long career. Nominees shall have played an active role in Vermont agriculture for at least thirty years.

- Jackie Folsom, Farmer and Ag lobbyist, Cabot, VT
- Paul Percy, Farmer, Stowe, VT
- Robert Starr, State Senator, Troy, VT



DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant Award Announcement

By Kathryn Donovan, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In the most recent iteration of this grant program, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NEDBIC) was able to support 12 projects being taken on by different farmers and processors throughout the region for a total of \$305,866.89. This

program helps dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products and improve marketability.

The Vermont projects for this round include Green Mountain Dairy Farm in Sheldon, Vermont to purchase equipment to assist with chilling their milk and loading the milk directly to a hauling truck, and Sweet

Rowen Farmstead in West Glover, Vermont to replace their malfunctioning bottler, which will lead to more consistent fill levels, longer shelf-life, and improved working conditions.

Additional projects across the region include Balfour Farm (Pittsfield, ME), Berle Farm (Hoosick Falls, NY), Fredrikson Farm (China, ME), Haven Farmstead (New Tripoli, PA),

Kendall's Dairy (Perham, ME), Pleasant Lane Farm Creamery (Latrobe, PA), Santy Dairy (Skowhegan, ME), Upstate Niagara Cooperative (Lancaster, NY), Winter Hill Farm (Freeport, ME), and Yellow Birch Farm (Deer Isle, ME).

The projects that are being supported through this program support increased production safety standards with the goal

of accessing new markets. The funds allow eligible entities to access support through technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

This grant opportunity is expected to be offered again in Fall of 2022. Contact kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov or 802-585-4571 for more information.

Strengthening Regional Dairy Distribution Research Available

By Kathryn Donovan, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In the United States, Vermont included, fluid milk consumption has been on the decline steadily over the course of years. At the same time, overall dairy consumption is on the rise. This represents a significant market opportunity for small to mid-size dairy farms throughout New England. Knowing this, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) engaged with a food systems and economic development consultancy, Karen Karp & Partners (KK&P). KK&P worked to identify opportunities to strengthen

the region's value-added dairy distribution network and increase value-added dairy producers' ability to leverage the market opportunity.



After reviewing previous studies and interviewing cheesemakers, distributors, and other supply chain subject matter experts KK&P developed a report on Strengthening the Regional Value-Added Dairy Distribution System in April of 2022. The report includes several key findings. These findings resulted in recommended interventions, which could inform the work of the NEDBIC, and other stakeholders, as we work to strengthen the regional dairy supply chain. Interested in doing a deep dive into the report or watching KK&P's presentation of the findings? Visit agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/resources/distribution-capacity-study

Last Chance: Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Closes June 23

By Kathryn Donovan, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center is accepting applications through the Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Program until June 23. This funding allows established value-added dairy processors and producer associations to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate value-added dairy businesses. Dairy processors and producer associations in Vermont and the Northeast are eligible to apply. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement.

Learn more at agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities/dairy-marketing-branding-services-grant or contact Brockton Corbett at brockton.corbett@vermont.gov or (802) 498-5111.

Wild Turkey Tick Study

By Patti Casey, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency's Environmental Surveillance Program conducted a Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) surveillance effort on harvested wild turkeys in collaboration with Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife over Youth Turkey Weekend (4/23 and 4/24) and Opening Day of regular turkey season (5/1) at six check stations located around Vermont. Volunteers

staffed the stations from at least 8 am to 12 pm on all three days and inspected all reported birds for ectoparasites with hunter permission. Harvest location and hunter tag information was recorded for all birds.

Volunteers inspected about 100 wild turkeys and only one tick was found (in Addison County), a Black-Legged (Deer) Tick, *Ixodes scapularis*. Most turkeys also had lice. No Lone Star Ticks were recovered from any turkeys.

The study was designed

to find Lone Star Ticks. Our previous surveillance efforts, including dragging, flagging, and citizen- and veterinarian-submitted ticks, have produced very few Lone Star Ticks in Vermont, although neighboring states report having them. Wild turkeys are a known host of Lone Star Ticks. These ticks are of interest because they are capable of transmitting diseases of human concern, including ehrlichiosis and alpha-gal syndrome (red meat allergy).

Check stations included those that were as close to areas where we have found any ticks in the past, and an area of Caledonia County that was believed to have a population of Lone Star Ticks in past decades, according to a previous State Entomologist. Selected check stations were in Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor



Lone Star Tick



Patti Casey checking turkey for Lone Star Ticks.

Counties.

Questions about the study can be directed to

Patti Casey at Patti.Casey@Vermont.gov

Registration Is Now Open for the 8th Annual Vermont Open Farm Week!

This year's Open Farm Week will take place August 7 - 14, 2022

By Kristen Wirkkala, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Registration is now open for farms to participate in this year's Vermont Open Farm Week! For seven years, farmers have been inviting the public behind the scenes to experience



and celebrate Vermont's agricultural heritage. In 2021, approximately 1,000 visitors attended events at 45 farms across the state. Farms offer a range of events

from on-farm dinners and workshops to tours and tastings that are uniquely crafted at every farm.

Help people get to know the places where their food comes from and the farmers who make it happen by inviting guests onsite during this special week! Feedback has shown that people attending Open Farm Week

events are looking for fun activities, interaction with farmers, and unique events. You are encouraged to think outside of the box!

If you aren't sure what kind of event to plan, visit diginvt.com/blog/open-farmweekforfarmers for information and resources to help you craft your on-farm experience. The Open Farm Week Committee is also available to provide technical assistance to a limited number of farms that would like support developing ideas and preparing for visitors. They can help you develop

an event that's right for your farm and community, along with a timeline, marketing plan, and safety plan. There is no additional charge for this technical assistance, but you do need to apply for it via the Open Farm Week registration form.

The recommended fee for participation is \$50/farm. Neighboring farms interested in collaborating and marketing their events together can sign up together and receive a \$10 discount per farm.

Visit diginvt.com/blog/openfarmweekforfarmers to learn more and sign up!

VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2021 – 2030:

Goats

Editor's note: This brief is part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan 2021-2030 submitted to the legislature in January 2021. To read the full plan, please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-strategic-plan-2021-2030>

This brief was prepared by:

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Contributing Authors:

Adeline Druart, Vermont Creamery; Miles Hooper, Ayers Brook Goat Dairy; Tom Bivins, formerly of the Vermont Cheese Council; Kari Bradley, Hunger Mountain Food Co-Op; Shirley Richardson, formerly of Vermont Chevron

What's At Stake?

Vermont has driven growth in the artisanal cheese industry over the last 40 years. Today there are a dozen Vermont goat cheese brands, including the number two national brand of retail goat cheese. Due to the success of Vermont goat cheese makers, an estimated 5,000 additional milking goats could be needed in the state. In parallel to the goat dairy industry, the goat meat industry is still in development but has strong potential with both general and immigrant consumer markets. The goat



industry represents a diversification opportunity for cow dairy operations, potentially contributing to keeping farms in business as well as maintaining a vibrant agriculture landscape in Vermont.

Current Conditions

Vermont's goat milk production has grown from 2 million pounds to almost 3 million pounds over the past five years. The demand for Vermont goat milk is larger than current state production, resulting in an out-of-state supply strategy from major Vermont cheesemakers. Vermont Creamery anticipates

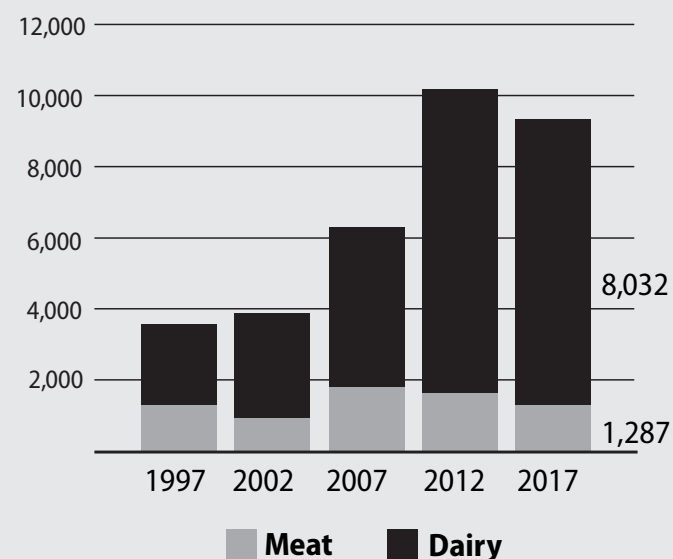
processing approximately 25 million pounds of goat milk per year by 2024, a meaningful opportunity for the state's dairy farming industry. Other prominent Vermont cheesemakers have taken interest in the goat cheese industry (e.g., the Cellars at Jasper Hill).

Goats generate income for a farm within 12-15 months, and give birth to females more often than cow reproduction, enabling a quick growth of the herd and improvement of genetics. Less cash is required to set up an efficient goat dairy than an efficient cow dairy. Labor costs are higher for goat dairies than cow dairies, however the work itself can be less arduous.

Goat meat also shows promise nationally, with about 2.5 million goats being raised for meat in the U.S. currently, and a need for up to 750,000 additional goats per year in order to meet national demand.

Vermont can become a leading state for goat farming by increasing the availability of technical assistance and production expertise, improving marketing support for the industry, communicating the opportunity to meet growing demand, and ensuring access to financing for new and existing goat farms.

Number of Goats in Vermont



Bottlenecks & Gaps

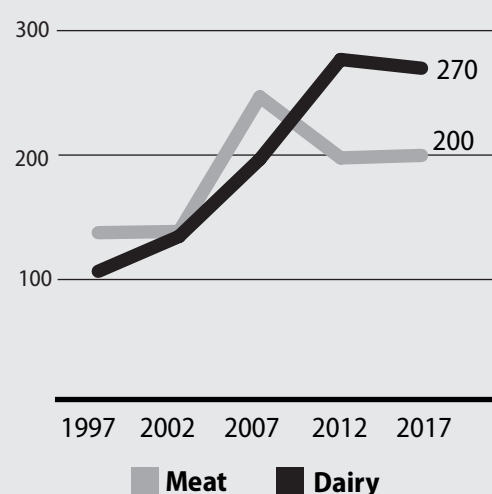
- There is a lack of dedicated resources and knowledge about goat dairies and a corresponding shortage of targeted outreach on opportunities that exist in the goat dairy market.
- There is a lack of capital for on-farm diversification for farmers interested in adding goats.
- There is an insufficient level of support services in the Vermont goat industry (e.g., vets, feed consultants), especially regarding nutrition, genetics, and best husbandry practices.
- As the goat dairy industry grows, there is a need to further develop a market for goat bucklings (male kid goats) which are a by-product of dairy operations.
- The goat meat market faces a lack of consumer and chef awareness, as well as inefficient

slaughter and processing infrastructure.

Opportunities

- Existing cheese processor demand could support at least ten new goat dairy farms of 400+ goats (the viable threshold for farm size).
- Farmers can diversify cow dairies by retrofitting milking parlors for goats.
- Growing demand for goat meat represents an additional market for farms as they grow their goat dairy operation. Current national demand leads to 52% of goat meat being imported from Australia and New Zealand.
- Additional consumer sampling, recipes, and cooking education regarding low fat, lean goat meat could be done through restaurant and retail partnerships.
- Local retailers see an opportunity for increased

Number of Vermont Farms with Goats



value-added products for retail to be further developed, such as goat yogurts, gelato, caramel, butter, ice cream, buttermilk, skyr, and jerky.

Recommendations

- Create a “Center of Excellence” with an on-site farm in Vermont to support growth of the goat farming industry and build expertise. Vermont

Technical College has expressed interest in exploring this opportunity. This leadership could be a model for other states interested in farm diversification and keeping agricultural land in production. The first step is to explore the cost of creating such a Center.

- Offer financial support (a combination of low-interest loans and grants)

for on-farm diversification that includes goats, in order to support the costs related to infrastructure, cash flow, and herd transition. A process to pair investors with farmers in search of capital could be mutually beneficial. The overall cost is approximately \$400,000 to diversify a cow dairy to include goats. The cost of a

new milking parlor is \$150,000, the cost of 400 goats is \$160,000. (Total cost to get to ten 400-goat farms is \$4 million.)

- UVM Extension should create a staff position focused on goat farming to coordinate farm development efforts within the state and create resources to share with farmers interested in diversifying to goat

dairy production. Cost: \$100,000 per year.

- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets could assist in developing marketing materials for goat meat as well as consumer and chef education through training and sampling, and the facilitation of restaurant and retail partnerships.

Ensure Your Livestock Watering Systems Keep Your Potable Water Clean

By Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Attention dairy farmers: Did you know that it is possible for your livestock watering systems to contaminate your farm’s potable water supply?

Under certain conditions, submerged valves in watering tubs can allow contaminated water back into the pipes/hoses that are bringing clean water out to the animals. This “backflow” could result in contamination of your farms’ source of potable water, which would be really bad news for animal health and human health – and also your milk quality and ability to pass your milk inspection.

Federal Pasteurized Milk Ordinance Standards require that “backflow preventers” with atmospheric vents are installed as part of livestock watering systems with submerged inlets to prevent contamination from occurring on a potable water supply. These Standards

also state that washing and sanitizing of milking equipment must be from a potable water supply.

Many experts recommend submerged inlets for watering livestock (such as the Jobe Megaflow float valve or Apex float valve) because compared to other valves/floats they provide higher water flow, more effectively prevent overflow, and are more “cow-proof”. You just need to make sure you install an acceptable backflow preventer as part of that system – and make sure it has an atmospheric vent that helps prevent contamination even if the internal valve fails.

If a dairy farm’s water system has a submerged inlet without an acceptable backflow preventer in use, it is a 5-point debit on any milk inspection or rating. For context, a farm can only lose a total of 10 points without failing their Grade A rating and losing their ability to ship milk out of state – so that is a serious issue!

If your livestock watering

tub is fed with a non-submerged inlet-style float or a non-potable supply or tank, a backflow preventer is not specifically required because the risk of contaminating a potable water supply is lower – but is probably still a good idea.

Approved examples of backflow preventers with atmospheric vents include WATTS 9-d, WATTS 009 or WATTS 909. If you wish

to use a different kind of backflow preventer, make sure it has an atmospheric vent and ask your farm milk inspector to verify that it is acceptable prior to installation.

To contact your milk inspector or to learn more about what you will need to have in place prior to a milk inspection, email AGR.dairy@vermont.gov or call 802-828-2433.

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has a Pasture and Surface Water Fencing program that can provide grant assistance to help farmers install infrastructure that improve or expand farms’ grazing practices, including pasture livestock watering systems. For more information or to apply, contact Mary Montour at (802) 461-6087 or Mary.Montour@vermont.gov



Many farmers and experts strongly recommend submerged float valves, such as the Jobe Multiflow (left), for pasture watering systems. However, backflow preventers with atmospheric vents (right) must be installed as part of the watering system to ensure that these submerged inlets do not contaminate potable water supplies.



Apply Now for Cost-Share on Upcoming Summer, Fall, and Spring Conservation Practices

By Nina Gage, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency’s Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program invests state funds in soil-based agronomic practices to improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and surface runoff from agricultural fields. The program is now open for applications for any practices planned July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The FAP program operates on a first-come first-served model and requires relatively little paperwork compared to some other funding programs. If you are interested in installing one of these conservation

- practices this summer, fall or spring we highly encourage you to look into this program, and to apply as far ahead of time as possible. Please submit one application for all practices planned until June 30, 2023, and ensure you meet deadlines as follows:
- Applications which include Rotational Grazing are due **June 15, 2022**. If you are applying for rotational grazing, you must submit a grazing plan and map with your application that clearly indicate which pastures you are seeking assistance for.
 - Applications which include cover cropping are due **August 1, 2022**.
 - All other practice applications are due **30 days prior** to planned install.
- FAP cannot fund practices that the applicant is receiving payment for under another state or federal agreement. Please note that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) payment rates for each of these practices are higher than FAP payment rates, so if you have the option you would benefit from signing a contract with

FAP-Eligible Conservation Practices	Payment Rate
Cover Crop – Broadcast or Interseeded	\$30 / acre
Cover Crop – Drilled or Otherwise Incorporated	\$45 / acre
Crop to Hay	\$35 / acre
Crop to Hay with Nurse Crop (e.g. oats)	\$45 / acre
Rotational Grazing	\$30 / acre*
No Till (Annual Crop) Planting	\$15 / acre*
No Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation	\$20 / acre*
Manure Injection	\$25 / acre
*Payment rate increased up to 20% from last year!	

NRCS instead of/before coming to FAP. For more information on the FAP program requirements and to apply go to agriculture.vermont.gov/fap If you have specific questions about practice eligibility, or how the FAP program works, you can contact Nina Gage at Nina.Gage@vermont.gov or 802-622-4098 or Sonia Howlett at Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov or 802-522-4655.



Well-managed rotational grazing doesn't just benefit water quality, it can improve your land, forage, and livestock health. Rotationally grazed pastures that meet FAP program requirements, including adequate residual vegetation, exclusion of livestock from surface water, and use of a grazing plan, are eligible for FAP payment at an annual rate of \$30/acre.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Lavender Hill VT LLC, of Manchester Center, Vermont to process, package and buy/sell culture products within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
Dairy Section Office
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by June 30, 2022. At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

Winterwood Timber Frames Innovates Local Wood Economy with Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant

By Clare Salerno, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets

Andy Harper, of Winterwood Timber Frames in East Montpelier, has always been committed to buying logs as locally as possible for his custom-built timber frame houses. But when he was awarded a Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) grant for \$75,000 in 2015, he was able to power up and outfit a new showroom and workshop on Route 2 that helped him invest even more in the region.

Harper used the grant to install three-phase power suitable for running the heavy machinery needed to expand his mill-working business and purchased two new kilns to dry his locally harvested timber on-site. A new wood-burning external boiler heats the facility, using wood scraps gleaned



from workshop waste. The grant also funded two new custom-made signs that help bring passersby into the new showroom, which resulted in dozens of new building projects.

The investment made possible by the Working Lands grant enabled Harper to more than double gross sales in 2015 and reach more than \$1 million combined profit in 2016.

More recently, Winterwood Timber Frames has grossed \$1.4 million. That's helped Harper maintain 10 year-round employees.

"Winning a WLEI grant felt like the vote of confidence that I needed to move my business forward," Harper says. "And it felt like we were sharing the risk to some degree, allowing me to make smarter decisions to benefit the business and continue to invest locally."

Winterwood Timber Frame's Working Lands business grant also strengthened the local forest economy supply chain. When Harper and his staff are not using the kilns, local woodworkers and other business also enjoy access to them for their own projects. Harper then converts their lumber into products such as flooring, stair components, and butcher block countertops. With 6,000 board feet capacity, the kilns

are always full and with a waiting list of customers.

With the increase in profits from the initial growth after the Working Lands grant, Winterwood became the local sawmill's biggest customer in 2015. The business has expanded to buys timbers from additional businesses that can mill, plane, and size the wood to the necessary specifications, including LSF Forest Products in Fletcher and Gagnon Lumber in Pittsford who supplies hardwood. Harper notes that there is now significant wait time associated with accessing timbers, which points to the need of additional timber processing mills in the state.

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative funding opportunities will re-open in fall 2022. Please visit workinglands.vermont.gov for more information.



Winterwood Timber Frames staff construct a home in Morrisville.



Winterwood Timber Frames

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.vvbga.org

Reports From The Field

(Ely) Despite a long, cold, cloudy April, we're getting a good start on field work. Cleaned up several leftover beds of fall harvested crops and dead pea/oat plantings with a light tilling followed by Perfecta passes. Planning to start the season with some serious Caliente mustard seedlings early before later crops. Already seeded two 1/2-acre pieces and plan several more. I think this mustard is a game changer and will report back results. Been trying to prepare and maintain stale seedbeds way ahead of planting to try and exhaust surface weed populations.

This past week we picked several hundred pounds of over-wintered spinach from a 1/3 acre planted in mid and later October, with a lot more to come. Best and earliest I've ever had! No winter kill and the perfect size: thumb sized true leaves and some even smaller. If it's any bigger there is too much sorting out old leaves. No cover over winter but put one on early when we had a cold snap in late March. Had to take it off later to

avoid abrasion from cover. Planted first spring spinach and into fall-prepared beds on March 26th and it came up beautifully. Flamed all beds just before it came up. Been planting spinach again every five days and have now added cilantro.

(Westminster) We've got transplants of kale, collards, cabbage, and lettuce in the ground. Our new transplanter has been working well. It plants four rows at a time but requires only two people working it, so that's much more efficient. We've covered them all with Remay to warm up the soil and push them along and, for the brassicas, to protect them from flea beetle.

The first of the sweet corn transplants will go in the ground soon; they'll also be covered with Remay. We grow all of our sweet corn from transplants now.

We're packing out the last of our stored root crops, with just some carrots and purple daikon left from last season. And we've started cutting field spinach that we planted last fall and overwintered. Most of that will go to the farmstand, which opens April 30. We welcome back our Jamaican H2-A workers May 1. We're hiring a few more of those guys this year since local help has been hard to find. Other than that -- bring on the warmth...It's been cold and windy!

(Hyde Park) Cold and wet spring here. The snow has been gone here but the fields are taking their sweet time drying out. I had already been seeding for almost 2 weeks by this time last year. But it looks like some dry,

warmer weather is on the way this week.

Garlic looks really good this year. I took a chance and didn't mulch or cover it at all this winter and it seems to have done well. Our typical heavy snow load is insulation enough even though we had relatively very little snow this year.

Tunnel crops are doing well, and some are finishing up/being pulled for summer crop prep. A red Russian kale paper-pot transplanted experiment came out last week after doing very well. It looked sad in January, and I almost gave up on it. However, it bounced back very well in February, and I was able to get three cuts on those beds. Chickweed is slowly becoming a problem in the houses. Spinach is going strong but some of the transplanted crops are very slow this year. I planted some brassicas like bok choy and kale a full month earlier than last year and saw no benefit. Although this spring has been much cloudier and colder than last year.

On May 1 was just able to start bed prep in some drier fields. With the sun today it's time to start weeding for real. Drank a beer laying in the grass after work today; felt good. Spring is here!

(W. Rutland) Well, it's been a raining nearly all of April. Cover crops love it, plows and tractors don't. Been so cold even the garlic and hop plants seem to wanna git back down undah. Very slow start here. Hoping to start catching up soon.

(Guildhall) Finally getting a spell of dry weather, and enough time away from trucking potatoes to start tillage on April 30.

Hopefully we'll be able to start tilling in earnest around May 10 when the schedule loosens a bit. We've added a lot of new leased land; some hay ground to plow, some out of hay only one year, some weedy cropland. All told we've probably got 125 acres to work this spring despite only planting our usual 50ish acres of potatoes. Bigger equipment is something to look forward to, one day. We'll plant 2 acres of early chippers, 1-acre early whites, and 5 acres of reds early next week. The rest of the spuds we'll get to when we get to 'em. Everything's going smoothly, aside from fertilizer and diesel prices.

Pollinator Program Updates

By Laura Johnson, UVM Extension Pollinator Support Specialist

Check out these new resources on the UVM Extension pollinator support [web site](#). **Self-report pollinators counts on your farm this spring!**

Want to participate and share spring pollinator observations in your blooming blueberries, apples, or other spring crop? Wondering what pollinator activity is looking like on other farms besides yours? Consider using this [data sheet](#) for monitoring pollinators in the field and this [google forms link](#) to submit your observations. Each includes instructions for pollinator monitoring in your crop. We will compile and share the results of your reports.

Commercial bumble bees in highbush blueberries: FAQs.

Considering ordering bumble bees for blueberry

pollination services? Maybe you put your order in already and aren't sure what to expect? Or maybe you are familiar with using commercial bumble bees for pollination services and you want to provide suggestions for this new resource? Check out [Using Commercially Reared Bumble Bees for Northern Highbush Blueberry Pollination Services: FAQs](#)

Pollination guide for highbush blueberries in VT

This publication describes blueberry floral morphology, bee species efficiency and preferences, and tips on spring bee activity.

Questions, comments, suggestions? Contact laura.o.johnson@uvm.edu.

Leek Moth Update

By Scott Lewins, Entomologist, UVM Extension and P&SS Dept.

The first leek moth flight of the season has started, and they will begin mating and laying eggs on overwintering garlic and other alliums as they are planted this spring. Typically, this first flight doesn't result in significant damage, though newly transplanted alliums as well as garlic scapes can be disproportionately affected because of the timing of the resulting first larval generation. Management options include exclusion with row cover and chemical controls. Covering plants with row cover at night will exclude the nocturnal female moths from laying eggs. Where this is not feasible or cost effective, chemical controls can be applied. Spinosad (Entrust, organic) and spinetoram

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CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: Ag.griview@vermont.gov, phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

Cattle

Heifers for sale: angus x, Jersey x, belgian blue x, due in May 2 dutch belt ready to breed. Georgia VT, 802-527-2010 (5)

Now boarding heifers and beef cattle! If labor's too hard to find or short on feed, let us board your animals. 300 lbs and up, minimum group size of 50; Excellent facilities and feed is mix of haylage and corn silage or straight haylage, your choice. References available upon request. Call 802-533-2984 (5)

Angus Bulls for sale. Greensboro, VT (802) 533-9804 (8)

Breeding Age Bulls, Registered Holstein. 10 over a year of age; popular sires; Dam to over 30,000 milk, 5.1 % 1600 Fat, 3.4 % protein. Robeth Holsteins, Rochester VT. Delivery available. Call David at 802-342-1816 or Bob at 802-767-3926. (8)

18-month old open pure-bred Guernsey heifer. Stellar pedigree. Can be registered. Would make an excellent family cow or a great addition to an existing herd. \$2000 ir best offer. Call George at gopher broke Farm or email. 917-692-7749 (8)

Equipment

New Holland TR85 Combine with both grain and corn head. This machine has been in my family for years and lightly used. New oil/filters and batteries throughout machine. Ready for your use. \$10,000. Call or text 802-309-5500. (5)

Dairy Heritage single valve filler capper Includes: Infeed

and case off tables Ampco centrifugal pump and controller. Purchased new, never used: \$7,500. Contact Tom Warren Stone & Thistle Farm, East Meredith, NY 13757; warren@stoneandthistlefarm.com or 607-278-5800 for photos or more information. (5)

McHale Rs4 bale splitter w/ wrap retainer \$3950 Ag Bagger G-6000 \$3000 JD 630A Hay Head \$2500 FORD(White) 242 18ft Disc \$6900 Shoreham 802-989-6262 (5)

Bulk milk tank for sale: 1500 gal; DEC; excellent condition, \$8000 OBO. Call 802-533-2984 (5)

New Holland 2 row corn head model 770N2 fits 718 chopper and others. Best offer 802-293-5439 (8)

76 Deloval vacuum pump, like new. 19 ton grain bin, like new. Mower 7ft, 12 ½ ft steel roller, 2 furrow plows 802-624-0143

Equine

Horse for sale. Halflinger, 15 hands, 14 years old, strong and gentle, trained to harness by Amish. \$4500.

Accompanying equipment also for sale, price negotiable: harness, bobsled, heavy 2 wheeled cart, sulky, cultivator, small spiked harrow, potato plow. Shrewsbury, VT. Art Krueger at 802-492-3653 or knsh@vermontel.net. (5)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request. (3)

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435 (3)

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707 (3)

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566. (3)

Certified Organic First and Second cut wrapped round bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt at 802-558-3879. (3)

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers. Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176 (3)

2021 First cut \$ 4.00 At barn in Ryegate. Steve, 802-584-4450 (3)

Hay for sale: 1st cut organic round bales. Randolph Center. Call John at 522-8798 (3)

Certified organic first cut wrapped round bales for sale – cut by mid-June, good sized and well made. Asking \$50/each with 200 bales available. Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center Contact: 802-728-5601 or brentbeidler@gmail.com. (3)

Excellent quality first, second, and third cut wrapped round bales for sale. First cut by June 1, dry. \$50.00/bale Please call 802-454-7198 (3)

1st, 2nd and 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call 802-533-2984. (3)

Dry 2nd Cut Hay for Sale 5' round bales, avg. 750 lbs, \$100/bale- Craftsbury, VT 802-624-0539 (3)

Certified organic 4x4 round bales for sale. First cut 45.00, second and third 55.00. 802-793-7526 (3)

Excellent quality wrapped round bales for sale. \$50/



bale. No emails. Please call 802-454-7198 (3)

1st Cut 4 x 4 Wrapped round bales \$45/bale Call Tom at 802-457-5834 (3)

1st, 2nd & 3rd cut round bales. 2nd cut square bales - 6.00 per bale. Volume discount for square and round bales. Please call Chris, 802-272-0548. (3)

Certified Organic wrapped round bales. Mid-summer first cut @ \$45/bale and 2nd and 3rd cut @ \$55/ bale loaded at the farm in N. Danville. All hay is tedded and raked and feeds out like dry hay. Definitely not frozen. Perfect for small as well as large ruminates. Email Vince at badgerbrookmeats@gmail.com or call 802-748-8461. (3)

Certified organic wrapped round bales – 1st & 2nd cutting 802-592-3356 (3)

400 wrapped bales available. 1st May cut. 2nd June cut. 3rd July cut. \$80 each. Call 802-446-2791 or email dlc724@gmail.com (3)

4 X 4 wrapped baleage, good quality. Certified organic. Fair prices. Call Phil at 802-254-6982 (5)

1st, 2nd and 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call 802-533-2984. (5)

ADDISON COUNTY

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166 (3)

Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/ bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities.

802-989-0781 for inquiries. (3)

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for Large, \$3.50-4.50 for Small. Delivery Available. Call Jack 802-989-8968 (3)

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455 (3)

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales. \$30-\$35Orwell 802-948-2211 (3)

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176 (3)

Hay for sale, cows have been sold. 750 lb 4x5 round bales stored inside or tube wrapped. Bedding/mulch \$35 heifer/beef \$40 dairy \$55 i will load your truck. In Whiting, call 802-623-6584 (3)

Large organic round bales good heifer/dry cow hay \$45/bale call 802-948-2382 evenings (3)

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976 (3)

CALEDONIA COUNTY

1st & 2nd cut alfalfa mix 600lb wrapped hay baleage. For questions, prices and orders call (802) 375-5647 (3)

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Round bales for horses. Clean first cut timothy mixed grass, quality net wrapped 4' X 5' bales. Never wet. \$45. each.

CLASSIFIEDS

802-879-0391 Westford. (3)

First Cut wrapped round bales, processed. Great heifer or beef hay. Analysis available upon request. Huntington VT. Call or text Tim: 802-363-9770 \$45 loaded (8)

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call 899-4126 (3)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Good Quality Hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard & orchard sweet grass 18 to 20% plus protein large bales & organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. Mountain View Dairy Farm 802-849-6266 (3)

Excellent 2021 1st cut hay wrapped round bales for sale. Call Wayne (802) 285-6383 (3)

200 tons certified Organic corn silage stored in an ag bag. Will load for you. 180 wrapped 4x4 certified organic round bales, 18% protein, price negotiable.

Highgate Center, VT 802-868-7535 If no answer, please leave a message. (9)

LAMOILLE COUNTY

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/bale. Organic first cut hay. \$5/bale. Certified organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge. 802-644-6598. valleydreamfarm@gmail.com. (3)

ORLEANS COUNTY

Pure alfalfa for sale and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/small squares, round bales, wrapped or unwrapped, straw and switch grass. Call Richard at 802-323-3275. (3)

Organic Certified Silage for Sale: We will deliver from our farm or you can come and pick up. Call for prices and delivery charge. 1-802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or 802-744-6553. (3)

North Troy- Good quality Certified organic large round bales, some dry and some wrapped and 9x200 ft ag bags for haylage. Also conventional large round bales and 9x200ag bags of haylage. Delivery available 802-988-2959 or 802-274-2832 (3)

RUTLAND COUNTY

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435. (3)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

200-4x4 round bales 1st & 2nd cut \$45 each. 802-229-9871 (3)

Wrapped, Dry, Round Bales. First, second and third cut. Perfect for horses, goats and cows. Never been wet. \$50/Bale. Call 802-454-7198. (3)

Excellent Quality. First, second, and third cut wrapped round bales. Dry. Perfect for horses, dairy, or goats.

\$50/Bale. No emails. Please call 802-454-7198. (5)

WINDHAM COUNTY

1st cut hay. Good horse hay. \$4.50 bale 802-254-5069 (3)

WINDSOR COUNTY

Hay for sale-400 square bales, Reading, Windsor County Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the barn. Call 802-484-7240 (3)

1st cut 4x4 wrapped round bales \$45/bale, located in South Pomfret. Call Tom at 802-457-5834 (3)

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. Delivery can be arranged at \$5.50. Very nice hay from fertilized fields in the South Woodstock and Reading area. Call 802-484-5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask for David. (3)

1st. cut dry round bales for sale. Never been rained on, stored under cover. \$50. @ 1st. cut haylage bales for sale. \$45. Rte. 5 Weathersfield Bow 802-546-4340. (3)

4 x 4 wrapped bales, 1st green \$45, dry \$55. 2nd green \$50, dry \$60. Royalton, 802-356-1402 royalvillagefarm@gmail.com (4)

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00 delivery available. 802-457-1376 (3)

Quality first cut wrapped round bales for sale \$40 each. 802-674-2417 (5)



Vegetable & Berry News

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(Radiant SC, conventional) have been shown to be effective chemical controls but must be time timed appropriately. For more information about leek moth, see <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/agriculture/vegetables/leek-moth-information-center>. Questions? contact Vic Izzo (vizzo@uvm.edu) and/or Scott Lewins (slewins@uvm.edu).

Join The Vermont Nursery And Landscape Association (VNLA)

By Kristina MacKulin,
NLA Executive Director

The VNLA is a trade association of retail and wholesale growers, garden centers, landscape designers, contractors, and educators dedicated to promoting the horticultural industry in Vermont. It offers a variety of programs, educational

opportunities, industry news updates, a quarterly publication, and access to a network of people dedicated to horticulture in Vermont. We invite VVBGA members to join VNLA. Learn more about becoming a member here: <https://vnlavt.org/membership/benefits-of-membership/>. The VNLA also produces the Vermont Flower Show, which has been on hiatus due to the pandemic. It will resume March 3-5, 2023 at the Champlain Valley Expo. We invite you to consider being an exhibitor! Learn more at <https://vnlavt.org/vermont-flower-show/exhibitors/>

Farmer-To-Farmer Business Discussion Group

The Farmer Peer-to-Peer Discussion group is a place to increase basic business management skills, discuss business needs and share ideas. It's a FREE 12-month program for qualifying

Vermont farms. The group meets for four hours each month, beginning this month. You must have a value-added/retail component to your farm and meet a few other requirements. Waivers of the eligibility requirements may be requested. See this [flyer](#) for details, complete an initial [intake form](#) or, contact betsy.miller@uvm.edu for an application or to learn more.

The group will explore business skills including financial management, sales, staffing issues, planning, operational efficiencies, market analysis, relationship building, new market opportunities, and succession planning. Meetings will be facilitated by Rose Wilson, agricultural enterprises consultant, and Betsy Miller UVM Extension Agricultural Business Educator. Discussions will be confidential. Visit the Agricultural Business website to learn more about our programs and services.

Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	828-2431
Animal Health	828-2421
Business Development	828-1619
Dairy	828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide. . .	828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime	828-5050
Licensing & Registration	828-2436
Meat Inspection	828-2426
Produce Program	461-5128
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab. .	585-6073
Water Quality BMP	828-3474
Water Quality Grants	622-4098
Water Quality Reports	272-0323
Weights & Measures	828-2433
Working Lands	622-4477

Environmental Protection Agency Gives Vermont High Grades for Water Quality Work

By Scott Waterman, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Vermont remains on track to meet its water quality goals. That's the conclusion of a recent report card issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year EPA Region 1 evaluates the work being done by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

(ANR) and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The most recent report card gives Vermont high marks.

In its letter to the Agency of Natural Resources, EPA praised Vermont for its work improving the environment. "Beyond the successful implementation in the Winooski, Lamoille, and Missisquoi basins, we are pleased to note the many broader accomplish-

ments documented in the Performance Report. EPA continues to be pleased with the quantity and quality of work completed since passage of Act 64."

Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, was established in 2015 and is the blueprint for improving the Vermont's waterways by establishing funding, education, technical assistance and enforcement programs. Last year Vermont invested over \$47 million in water quality projects across all land-use sectors. The report highlighted several regions of Vermont where successful strategies are being implemented.

"Each year Vermont

produces a comprehensive review of the projects and programs that have been undertaken to help clean up and protect our waterways," said ANR Secretary Julie Moore. "The magnitude, pace and impact of this work has really accelerated over the last five years, with total investments of more than \$250 million in water quality. I appreciate EPA's review and feedback in helping ensure the success of this important work."

Since the passage of Act 64 numerous partners such as municipalities, natural resources conservation districts, regional planning commissions, watershed asso-

ciations, and land conservancies have worked with the Agency of Natural Resources, Agency of Transportation and Agency of Agriculture, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on a host of programs that are making a difference.

"This report by the EPA is a comprehensive reminder of the teamwork that is really needed to achieve statewide water quality improvements," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "The Agency of Transportation has had the valuable opportunity to refine our past successes of water quality improvements with our municipal

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For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Morton 1623, of Grafton, Vermont to process, package, buy/sell, and transport cheese products within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
Dairy Section Office
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by July 15, 2022.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

2022 Vermont's Fairs and Field Days

Vermont's classic country fairs are a favorite summer past-time for Vermonters and visitors alike. Drawing over 700,000 visitors and exhibitors every year, Vermont's fairs and field days represent an important opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and provide insight into our unique cultural heritage. They're also a great source of entertainment and fun for the whole family! Please be sure to visit fair websites for the most up to date information.

- **Vermont Dairy Festival**
June 2-5, 2022
- **The Bradford Fair**
July 14-7, 2022
- **Lamoille County Field Days**
July 22-24, 2022
- **Pownal Valley Fair**
TBD
- **Deerfield Valley Farmers Day**
August 12-14 2022
- **Franklin County Field Days**
August 4-7, 2022
- **Addison County Fair & Field Day**
August 9-13, 2022
- **Vermont State Fair**
August 16-20, 2022
- **Caledonia County Fair**
August 8, 2022
- **Bondville Fair**
August 26-28, 2022
- **Champlain Valley Fair**
August 26 - September 4, 2022
- **Guilford Fair**
September 5-6, 2022
- **Orleans County Fair**
September 7-11, 2022
- **The Tunbridge Fair**
September 15-18, 2022



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Deciphering Sizes, Grades, and Codes on Egg Cartons

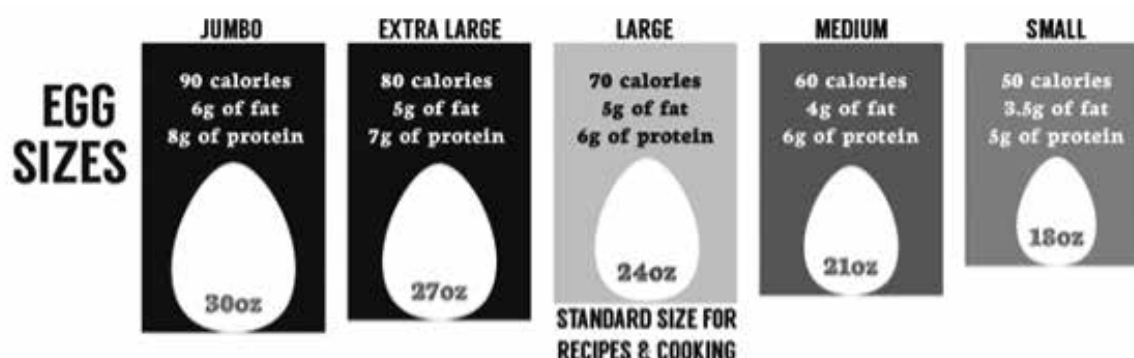
By Tucker Diego, Agricultural Products Manager

Do you sell eggs from your backyard poultry flock? Do you buy eggs at farmers' markets or grocery stores? Have you ever wondered what is required for grading and labeling chicken eggs? Whether you are producing or buying, here's the scoop...

All chicken eggs sold in Vermont must meet basic grade and labeling requirements. When consumers or poultry producers have questions about eggs, they can contact the Agricultural Products section through the Agency website. The Agency doesn't normally perform egg quality inspections, but it does have authority over how eggs are labeled and sold and can send an Agricultural Products inspector to follow up on egg related complaints as they occur. Here are the basic requirements:

Size

Egg size is based on the minimum weight of a dozen eggs. The legal minimum weight for a dozen individual large eggs is 23 oz. (24 oz. with the carton). The



graphic above from USDA shows the minimum weight of other common egg sizes along with the nutritional information.

Grade

Each container of eggs sold at retail must be assigned a grade to indicate quality. The three commercial grades are AA, A, and B. Most eggs which are clean, unbroken, and fresh (i.e., packed within 30 days of laying) will meet grade A standards. Producers wishing to meet the AA standards should refer to USDA or Vermont grade specifications when inspecting their eggs to ensure they meet the higher standard. Grade B eggs allow for a greater percentage of eggs with checks (cracks) and a larger air gap (an indicator of freshness). Dirty eggs, leakers (eggs with cracks and damaged membrane), or eggs with other significant deficiencies are not approved for sale. Additional factors when assessing egg quality include shell shape and texture, the appearance of the yolk, and characteristics of the albumen (the egg white). Shell color is not a

quality factor, but most eggs are separated by color to meet consumer preferences.

USDA Seal of Quality

Egg producers may choose to participate in USDA's voluntary egg quality program which provides independent third-party verification that grade standards are being met and allows producers to label their eggs with a USDA shield logo. Eggs not produced under a USDA egg quality program, but which are sold in re-used cartons must have the USDA shield crossed out.

Fresh and clean



Vermont egg law does not specifically require producers wash their eggs; however, it does require that eggs and egg cartons are clean. Most large commercial egg producers wash eggs to meet consumer expectations and to prevent harmful pathogens from contaminating eggs. USDA guidelines recommend

for pathogens to be drawn through the shell and into the egg. USDA recommends drying eggs immediately after washing and always keeping eggs refrigerated to maintain quality.

Expiration, best-buy, and packing dates

Only grade AA or A eggs are allowed to be labeled as fresh. A common way producers track freshness is with a date printed on

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For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities

Join the CT River Watershed Farmers Alliance!



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www.CRWFA.org
(203) 470-9148
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Alternatives to Managing Stress

By Elizabeth Sipple, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Everyone experiences stress, and for farmers Spring is an exciting AND stressful time of year! Are you feeling stressed? Are you concerned about stress levels that you have seen in a neighbor or family member?

The Michigan State University Extension suggests that if you try any two of the below practices each day for 2 to 3 weeks that you will notice how much less

stressed you have become.

1. **MEDITATE.** Think of any moment that made you feel comforted and content. Close your eyes and relive that moment.

2. **PRACTICE “B-R-A-I-N.”**

- a. B = Breathe. Breathe deeply 5 times. Release the air slowly.
- b. R = Relax. Tell yourself to relax, whether in your head or out loud. Your body will do what you ask it to do.
- c. A = Ask yourself what you need or want to

feel. We usually ask why the other person is such a jerk or why we goofed up. Instead, ask yourself what you need to feel: calm, in control, at peace, and other comforting feelings.

- d. I = Imagine feeling that way.
- e. N = Now, after doing those four things, ask yourself, “How do I feel now?”

3. **SELF-TALK.** Tell yourself you can get through it. You have come through rough times before. You

can do it again. You have gotten through difficult situations. People can drive you crazy but tell yourself that both of you may be in a better mood later.

4. **EXERCISE.** A brisk 10-minute walk releases 50-70% of the cortisol in your brain that comes with stress or anger. The best time to walk is first thing in the morning, but a walk any time is good. Take just 10 minutes away from everyone and everything to walk all by yourself and you will be

in a better mood for the entire day.

If you want support managing or even reducing stress, please contact Farm First.

Farm First is a Vermont-based program focused on providing farmers and their families, with FREE support, resources, and information to reduce stress. You can reach Farm First at:

Call: (802) 318-5538 during daytime work hours

Call: 877-493-6216 outside of daytime work hours

Email: Karen Crowley at karenc@farmfirst.org

Eggs

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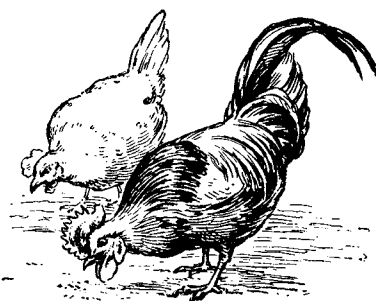
the carton. Expiration dates are commonly labeled as “EXP” or “Sell by” and indicate the date at which a product should no longer be sold. Expiration dates for eggs should not exceed 30 days from the packing date. “Best by” or “Use by” dates generally indicate the maximum time eggs are considered fresh. This terminology should not exceed 45 days from the packing date. Lastly, the packing date itself may be marked on cartons in the form of a lot code in the Julian calendar format (i.e., consecutive days of the year). The packing date can be used to estimate quality and for traceability purposes in the event of a recall.

Producer Name and Address

Many small-scale egg producers sell their eggs from the farm, at farmers’

markets, or by other direct to consumer methods. Even the smallest egg producer should remember to include on their egg carton the producer’s name and address. If eggs are produced by a farm but packed or distributed by another business, then the label should accurately describe that relationship, such as by indicating “Produced for and distributed by ____” or “distributed by ____.” Additional labeling requirements can be found in the Vermont Weights and Measures Labeling guide.

For more information, please contact tucker.diego@vermont.gov or call 802-622-4412.



Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

Programs Open Year-Round

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley

Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov

(802) 828-2431

Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Mary Montour

Mary.Montour@vermont.gov

(802) 461-6087

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett

Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov

(802) 522-4655

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on Vermont agricultural land.

Ben Gabos

Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov

(802) 461-3814

Phil Wilson

Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov

(802) 505-5378

June

Dairy Processor Innovation Grant

Grants for dairy processors to position their businesses for long-term success.

Kathryn Donovan

Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov

(802) 585-4571

Attention Beekeepers!

Registration renewal time for your bees is here

By Brooke Decker, VT
Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets



Currently registered beekeepers will receive their renewal form in the mail. The form will identify previously registered apiaries. The GPS coordinates should be verified for accuracy by the registrant, as this will be the registered location and used to inform the online apiary map.

Many beekeepers will

be pleased to learn that online renewals are now an option.

Instructions for setting up an account and navigating the process can be found on the Agency's Apiary webpage (<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/apiary-program>).

In addition to the annual registration requirements, beekeepers are to report any diseases found in their apiaries as well as submit a Pest



and Varroa Mite mitigation survey. To simplify this survey submission process, we have created an online form that can be found at this link, which is also accessible on our website: <https://bit.ly/3L1YxDS>

We have included winter colony loss questions to this year's survey. This informa-

tion will help us understand the challenges that honey bees and beekeepers are facing. Additionally, we use this information to help develop our management education materials, based on the needs of the bees and their keepers.

Paper renewals will continue to be accepted for those beekeepers who do not wish to submit renewals online. Please contact State Apiculturist Brooke Decker to request paper registration forms, annual surveys, or other regulatory information you may need. She can be reached at 802-272-6688 or agr.bees@vermont.gov



Attention All Beekeepers!

Please scan the QR code below to take the winter colony loss, pest and disease survey.

For more information contact Brooke Decker via email agr.bees@vermont.gov or by phone 802-272-6688.



Save the Date!

Dairy Night on
Saturday, June 18th at 6:30PM
Montpelier Recreation Fields
Vermont Mountaineers vs.
Upper Valley Nighthawks



Brought to you by Vermont Dairy Producers Council

Water Quality

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partners. Our grant programs provide critical funding to municipalities and have led to increased stewardship, collaboration, and learning across the state. These efforts will result in water quality improvements for our state and its residents for years to

come."

"The issuance of high marks by EPA to Vermont highlights the great work of our state agencies as well as the work being done by watershed groups, farmers, conservation districts, USDA NRCS and Vermonters who care about our land and water," Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said. "We

know there is more work to be done but this report helps illustrate that we are making progress in meeting our water quality goals."

Read more about the EPA report card here ([EPA Letter](#)), and more about Vermont's efforts here: [Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2021 Performance Report](#)

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A quarterly newsletter from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division

If you eat food or purchase commodities at retail in Vermont, you will benefit from quarterly updates from the Agency's Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division, comprising the Dairy, Animal Health, Meat Inspection, Weights and Measures, and Agricultural Products Sections. Get a glimpse into how this specialized team ensures safe food and fair markets for all Vermonters! To subscribe, visit here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news>

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